

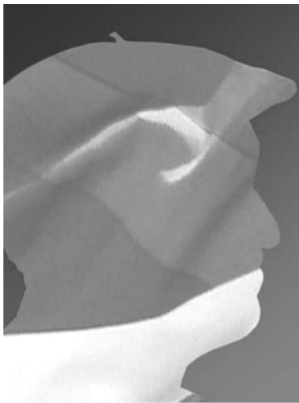


Tri-annual Report to NABO Delegates

Fall Meeting
Seattle, WA
Oct. 10, 2009

John M. Ysursa
N.A.B.O. Facilitator

IZAN ZIRALAKO, GARA, ETA GARALAKO IZANGO DIRA
"Because they were, we are, and because we are they will be"



EUSKALTASUNAREN ERRONKA

“Basque Continuity Challenge”

ISSUE: How can NABO best support members promote greater ethnic awareness to keep people participating in their local Basque communities?

The singular remarkable fact about the Basques is that they still exist.
- Mark Kurlansky

Frankly, Basques shouldn't still be around. Usually a people this small in number over time forfeit their culture and become absorbed by the larger culture that surrounds them. Yet for thousands of years Basques found ways to keep alive one of Europe's oldest cultures up to the present. It hasn't been easy and the pressure to abandon "Basqueness" in modern times has been intense and it isn't getting easier. That's why we need your help: we're asking that you come along!







This IS NOT primarily a money pitch (though sure money is needed to keep things going) nor is this about asking you to put a "Proud to be Basque" bumper-sticker on your car or wear a beret every day. This IS ABOUT getting people to accentuate "Basqueness" as one of their multiple identities (e.g., as a parent, spouse, child, football fan, American, etc.). We're hoping to 1) raise the "awareness of Basqueness" across the generations and 2) find folks--young and older--willing and able to contribute their time and energy to keep our culture alive.
To do this we have to work hard and work smart.



FOCUS (ADVISORY) GROUPS

ISSUE: *All the best ideas in the world remain just that, unless a group of people pick them up and make them happen. Taldeak translates as "teams" and the objective here is to create focus groups on various aspects of Basque culture that can in turn help to serve our various NABO members.*

Think about joining one (or more)!
Email info@nabasque.org

<i>We are currently looking for volunteers for these focus groups</i>	
	<u>DANTZA & MUSIKA: Dance & Music: shared resources, workshops, etc.</u>
	<u>DIRUA (Finances): budgeting, B.G. grant requests, etc.</u>
	<u>EUSKARA, KANTAK & MUS Basque language promotion to learn & play</u>
	<u>GAZTEAK ("Youth"): Includes 9 & under, Udaleku, Gaztealde, exchanges, etc.</u>
	<u>JAKINARAZI ("To Make Known") Education, communication, news, websites, etc.</u>
	<u>KIROLAK ("Sports"): Pilota, Pala & other Basque sports</u>



BASQUE GOVERNMENT UPDATE

2009 GRANTS. They were being reviewed in September, so hopefully there might be some news soon.

euskaletxeak.net
the web of and for the basque clubs



2009: Stay tuned



N.A.B.O. Annual Membership Fees

Like most organizations, NABO charges membership fees as well as several others charges for what each club chooses to purchase from NABO. Please send payments directly to our NABO Treasurer.

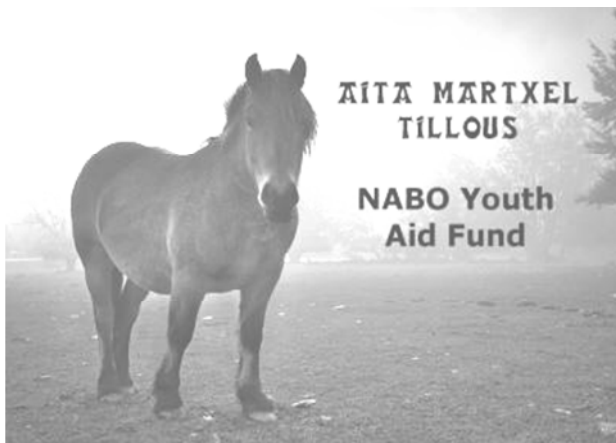
Current list of fees:

Membership dues: \$50 per organization plus 50 cents per individual member in your group; e.g., if you have 100 members in your club the charge is \$50 (per organization) plus + \$50 (100 members x 50 cents).

NABO paper calendar: \$5 to NABO for each one (then the club sells it for what they choose)

Pilota fee: Those clubs with handball/pala are requested to pay an annual \$100 fee.

Mus fee: \$10 to NABO for each individual player in your qualifying NABO finals tournament





NABO Meeting Basque Youth Forum

This is an invitation to all--NABO delegates, young adults, interested persons--to participate in an open forum. The Reno meeting provides us a chance to "talk" about the challenges and opportunities that we have in front of us so that we can better "walk" in developing viable initiatives.

- > When: Friday, July 24th @ noon
- > Where: University of Nevada, Reno – 1664 N. Virginia St.
Room: Matthewson IGT Knowledge Center – #107
- > What: The saying goes "If you're going to talk the talk, you've got to walk the walk"—a modern version of old sayings like "actions speak louder than words." While actions--having more Basque young adults involved with their Basque heritage--are the goal, we have to start with talking.

Related link: [Basque Young Adults' Discussion amongst themselves](#)



If a culture does not possess effective means of transmission from one generation to the next, then that culture is doomed to perish. Somehow, somehow, against the odds, our ancestors found a way to preserve "Basqueness" across thousands of years. Now it is our turn. We—those of us age 30 and above—cannot be the generation that breaks this long chain of continuity of one of the world's oldest cultures. OLD & YOUNG WILL HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAINTAIN THE LINK!

Friday @ noon Forum "Homework:" We are asking delegates to come with some responses to these topics to start.

- Is youth retention a high priority for your club/organization?
- What are the challenges you have in your club/organization attracting/retaining youth involvement?
- What if any effective methods have you found to attract/retain youth involvement?
- What joint endeavors can we develop to assist with this?
- How to get youth to take "ownership" and take the lead in various endeavors?

Our Basque community here in the Diaspora is at a crossroads: what will we choose to define as being Basque in the 21st century? What aspects of Basque culture will be chosen to



emphasize and perpetuate? These and other issues are becoming more paramount as a new generation of Basques is stepping up to--or in some cases declining to--embrace their Basque identity.

There are two key parts--a symbiotic relationship--between youth and the "not so young." Not only do we have to continue to explore routes of getting Basque youth to become and stay involved in Basque things, we also have to address the other side of the equation of how older Basques approach this whole transition. Older Basques have to understand--"appreciate"--where young people are today if they hope to effectively connect with them. It is not an easy task, especially since youth today quickly undergo a profound shift (i.e, there have always been changes from one generation to the next, but in recent times those changes have become greater and faster). Meanwhile, young people have to believe that "Being Basque" is something that they want to do. So the Reno meeting provides us a possible forum to initiate a discussion about the challenges and opportunities that we have in front of us. The hope is that with some "talk" we can do a better job when it comes time to "walk" to get/keep our youth involved with Basque culture.

The picture above at right is worth a thousand words. There are two key parts--a symbiotic relationship--between youth and the "not so young." Not only do we have to continue to explore routes of getting Basque youth to become and stay involved in Basque things, we also have to address the other side of the equation of how older Basques approach this whole transition. Older Basques have to understand--"appreciate"--where young people are today if they hope to effectively connect with them. It is not an easy task, especially since youth today quickly undergo a profound shift (i.e, there have always been changes from one generation to the next, but in recent times those changes have become greater and faster).





Kultur Astea



ISSUE: What can NABO do to help members host periodic cultural and educational events to get people together?

"You cannot give what you do not have." Many of us want to give to younger generations a sense of *Basqueness* (Basque culture & identity) because we want to share what we have and what we have appreciated. What we have in relation to Basque culture we'll refer to as GUREA: "That which is ours." The problem--and don't take this personal--is that many of us don't have much depth or breadth of knowledge about Basqueness. This is the proposed definition of the problem and solution: we have to learn (*ikasi*) more to be able to teach (*irakatsi*) more.

One of the challenges that confronts those who wish to see Basqueness endure is the fact of the matter that most have only a limited understanding of Basque culture and identity. There are various reasons for this, including the fact that for many immigrant Basques, their initial understanding of the Basque Country was generally limited to only an area of about twenty miles from their birthplace. This was just the way life was at that time. Meanwhile while today its much easier to travel greater distances and to see many parts of the Basque Country, oftentimes on the tour-package plan the knowledge we get still remains limited.

Basque clubs regularly receive inquiries from European Basques that go along the lines of: "would like to meet Basque-Americans" and "prepared to work at whatever to cover expenses while there" and "want to help teach about Basque culture." In practice, very few of these inquiries ever meet with much success. Meanwhile, Basque clubs are always in search of ways of communicating information about "Basqueness:" Basque culture & identity. The proposal is to meld these two elements.

TEAM TRAINING. Basque country young adults apply to a program where the Directorate of Relations with Basque Communities prepares them. This preparation will enable them to present a one-week selection of classes and lessons geared to both children and adults.

ROTATION. This team (probably a pair) would spend one week in a host community then move to the next, covering from 4-6 communities during the course of a summer.

HOSTING REQUIREMENTS. Room and board for one week (either a hotel room or staying with a family) and local transportation (including a one-way trip to or from the previous/next community). Each club would have to make the necessary arrangements to secure a large room of sorts for the meetings.

SESSION OPTIONS. Morning sessions could be geared more to children, while later afternoon events would be for both young and old. They could include teaching dances, watching a Basque film (explained & discussed), cooking classes, Euskara introduction, etc. Send your comments to info@nabasque.org



CLUB ASSESSMENT: Followup

West	North	South	Central	Eastern
Fresno Los Banos Marin-Sonoma Rocklin Seattle SF Anaitasuna SF Basque Club SF Basque Center SF BEO Vancouver. B.C.	Boise Oinkari Dancers Salt Lake Buffalo Rock Springs Gooding Basque Museum Ontario Mountain Home Homedale Cenarrusa	Chino Bakersfield Las Vegas So. California LA Oberena Ventura County	CBS Reno Elko Winnemucca Gardnerville Susanville Santa Rosa Colorado Battle Mountain	Washington D.C. NY Euzko Etxea NY Society of Basque Studies Montreal, Canada

PORTABLE EXHIBITIONS:



Each host has to pay for local expenses, arrange transport, set-up/take-down.



Roberts
Rules of
Disorder



NABO MEETING PROCEDURES: Timely, fair & orderly

These are based on [Robert's Rules of Order](#), but ultimately we as a group decide what works best for us. The aim is to find a viable formula to make our meetings timely, fair and orderly.

General five minute report rule.* Each person speaking on a point on the agenda will be given an uninterrupted (no questions until finished) five minutes to briefly state (because delegates can later refer to specifics provided them in written form or online) *Some reports are exempt from this five minute cap, including the Treasurer's & Facilitator reports, and periodically a Basque Government report.

Questions & discussion. Following each specific presentation (that is not interrupted by questions) up to a ten minute period of discussion begins on this agenda point (which allows for questioning, input, motions from the floor, etc.). Note that all members wishing to speak about the motion receive the opportunity to speak before any one member speaks for a second time. If discussion/questions ends before the ten minute period, then we move to the next agenda item. If after ten minutes discussion continues, an automatic return to Robert's Rules of Order (specifically "Motion to Limit or Extend debate") will occur. At this point all delegates vote whether to continue the discussion. If the majority votes YES, the discussion continues for up to five minutes (when again the automatic vote is triggered)

If a majority votes NO, there are now several options:

- 1) "Call to Question:" to form or restate a motion to bring the matter to a vote or
- 2) "Refer to Committee:" the matter is now referred to a specific committee that is formed or an existing focus (advisory) group.
- 2) "Lay on the Table:" General discussion of the item is tabled. Those still interested in the matter can follow up and it's possible to "take from the table" and reopen the matter at a later time.